

**History 457**  
Topics in Medical History  
Prof. T. Schlich  
Winter term 2004; Wednesdays 13.35-15.55  
3647 Peel Street, room 101

### **The Rise of Surgery**

#### *Contact Information*

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#### *Course Requirements*

All students should have taken History 349A

Students will be required to write a term paper of 20 pages in length on a topic related to the history of surgery broadly conceived. This paper will count for 60 per cent of your final grade. Class participation will count for 40 per cent. Participation includes attendance, performance of assigned tasks and contributions to discussions. The readings for this course are available in the form of a coursepack that can be purchased at the Paragraphe bookstore.

#### *About this Course*

This course is about how and why modern surgery became the most important but the least questioned way of body manipulation. For this we will look at the major developments in surgery on the professional, conceptual and technical levels and examine how they relate to each other. The main emphasis will be on the co-evolution of modern surgery and modern society by discussing how surgery became built into the fabric of modern society and culture, changing at the same time our modern understanding of the body.

#### **7 January: Introduction: The History of Surgery**

#### **14 January: Old and New Surgery**

Ghislaine Lawrence: 'Surgery Traditional'. In: W.F. Bynum and Roy Porter (eds.) *Companion Encyclopedia of the History of Medicine*, London and New York: Routledge, vol. 2, 1993, pp. 961-83. Nancy Siraisi: *Medieval and Early Renaissance Medicine. An Introduction to Knowledge and Practice*, Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press 1990, pp. 153-86, 212-17. Source: Theodor Billroth: *General Surgical Pathology and Therapeutics*, in *Fifty-One Lectures. A Text-book for Students and Physicians* (English translation of 4<sup>th</sup> German edition) New York: Appleton 1879, pp. 1-3; 14-16.

#### **21 January: Making Sense of Surgery: The Localization of Disease**

Russell C. Maulitz: 'The Pathological Tradition. In: W.F. Bynum and Roy Porter (eds.) *Companion Encyclopaedia of the History of Medicine*, London and New York: Routledge, vol. 1, 1993, pp. 169-91. Owsei Temkin: 'The Role of Surgery in the Rise of Modern Medical Thought' *Bulletin for the History of Medicine* 25 (1951), pp. 248-59. Source: Rudolf Virchow: *Cellular Pathology. As Based upon Physiological and Pathological Histology*, New York: Dover Publications 1871 (first published in German in 1863), pp. 27-50.

#### **28 January: Anesthesia: Pain and Power**

Martin S. Pernick: *A Calculus of Suffering. Pain, Professionalism and Anesthesia in Nineteenth-Century America*, New York: Columbia University Press 1985, pp. 208-239, pp. 245-262 (tables), pp. 336-347 (footnotes).  
 Source: 'A Yale Student Decries the Use of Anesthesia in Childbirth', 1848. In: John Harley Warner and Janet A. Tighe (eds.): *Major Problems in the History of American Medicine and Public Health. Documents and Essays*, Boston, New York: Houghton Mifflin Company 2001, pp. 101-102. Visual sources: French cartoons, 1847, reprinted in the *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* (October 1946), vol. 1, p. 610. 'Furor Operativus', USA 1861. In: Pernick 1985, p. 60.

#### **4 February: Making Surgery Viable: Antisepsis and Asepsis**

Guy Williams: *The Age of Miracles. Medicine and Surgery in the Nineteenth Century*, London: Constable 1981, pp. 57-81. Lindsey Granshaw: "'Upon this Principle I Have Based a Practice": The Development of Antisepsis in Britain, 1867-90'. In: John V. Pickstone (ed.): *Medical Innovations in Historical Perspective*, New York: St. Martin's Press, 1992, pp. 17-46, 202-212. Sources: Joseph Lister: 'On a New Method of Treating Compound Fracture, Abscess, etc.' *The Lancet* 1867, i, pp. 326-327. Theodor Billroth: *General Surgical Pathology and Therapeutics, in Fifty-One Lectures, A Text-book for Students and Physicians* (English translation of 4<sup>th</sup> German edition) New York: Appleton 1879, pp. 99-107.

#### **11 February: The Technological Fix: Transplant Surgery**

Thomas Schlich: 'Changing Disease Identities: Cretinism, Politics and Surgery (1844-1892)'. *Medical History* 38 (1994), pp. 421-443. Thomas Schlich: *Die Erfindung der Organtransplantation: Erfolg und Scheitern des chirurgischen Organersatzes (1880-1930)*, Frankfurt on the Main: Campus 1998 (English translation of the conclusion), pp. 339-349. Thomas Schlich: 'Organ Transplantation'. In: *Encyclopedia of Twentieth Century Technology*, London: Fitzroy Dearborn 2003 [manuscript]. Source: Alexis Carrel: 'Suture of Blood-Vessels and Transplantation. Nobel Lectures'. 330-31. Visual source: Cartoon 'Undreamt of prospects or surgery in the year 2000'. In: *Der oeffentliche Dienst* No. 6, February 9 1968.

#### **18 February: The Surgeon as Modern Hero**

Christopher Lawrence and Tom Treasure: 'Surgeons'. In: Roger Cooter/John Pickstone (eds.): *Medicine in the Twentieth Century*, Amsterdam: Harwood, pp. 653-670. Sources: Emil Theodor Kocher: Concerning Pathological Manifestations in Low-Grade Thyroid Diseases, Nobel lecture, December 11, 1909. In: *Nobel Lectures. Physiology of Medicine, 1901-1921*, Amsterdam, London, New York: Elsevier Publishing Company 1967, pp. 330-335. 'Surgery: The Ultimate Operation' *Time*, December 15, 1967, pp. 64-72.

#### **3 March: Is War Good for Medicine? The Parallel Evolution of Surgery and Warfare**

Roger Cooter: 'War and Modern Medicine'. In W.F. Bynum and Roy Porter (eds.) *Companion Encyclopaedia of the History of Medicine*, London and New York: Routledge,

vol. 2, 1993, pp. 1536-1573. Source: Richard M. Garfield: 'Epidemiologic Analysis of Warfare. A Historical Review', *JAMA*, vol. 266, No. 5 (August 7, 1991), pp. 688-692.

### **10 March: The War Surgeon as Anti-Hero: M.A.S.H.**

Otto F. Apel and Pat Apel: *MASH. An Army Surgeon in Korea*, Lexington, Kentucky: The University Press of Kentucky 1998, pp. ix-xv. 'The Making of M\*A\*S\*H\*' (<http://www.geocities.com/Hollywood/8200/mashline.htm>, 21 Nov. 2002. 'M\*A\*S\*H\* reviews' (<http://www.geocities.com/Hollywood/8200/mashrev.htm>, 21 Nov. 2002.

### **17 March: Repairing People: Psychosurgery**

Jack D. Pressman: *Last Resort. Psychosurgery and the Limits of Medicine*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1998, pp. 194-235, (and footnotes pp. 493-498). Sources: Walter Freeman/James W. Watts: 'Subcortical Prefrontal Lobotomy in the Treatment of Certain Psychoses', *Archives of Neurology and Psychiatry* 38 (1937), pp. 225-9. Walter Freeman/James W. Watts: *Psychosurgery. Intelligence, Emotion and Social Behavior Following Prefrontal Lobotomy for Mental Disorders*, Springfield, Ill., Baltimore, Md.: Charles C. Thomas, 1942, pp. 216-229, 238-40, 250-264..

### **24 March: Cosmetic Surgery**

Beth Haiken: 'Plastic Surgery and American Beauty at 1921', *Bull. Hist. Med.* 68 (1994), pp. 429-453. Sander L Gilman.: *Making the Body Beautiful. A Cultural History of Aesthetic Surgery*, Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press 1999. pp. 3-42 (and footnotes pp. 335-345). Sources: Jacques Joseph: 'Operative Reduction of the Size of a Nose (Rhinomiosis)'. In: Frank McDowell (ed.): *Plastic Surgery*, Silvergirl: Austin, Texas 1987, pp. 102-105 (first published in German in *Berliner klinische Wochenschrift* 44 (1898), p. 882). Michael Kalick: 'Aesthetic Surgery: How It Affects the Way Patients Are Perceived by Others', *Annals of Plastic Surgery* 2 (1979), pp. 128-133; Simon Fredricks: Invited Comment, *ibid.*, pp. 133-134.

### **31 March: Surgery for Sexual Identity**

Alice Domurat Dreger: *Hermaphrodites and the Medical Invention of Sex*, Cambridge, Mass., London, Engl.: Harvard University Press 1998, pp. 1-14, 167-201 (footnotes: 203-205, 253-261). Website to explore: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/gender/>

### **7 April: Conclusion: The Rise of Surgery and the "Modern Body"**